

Hidden Local Symmetry and Infinite Tower of Vector Mesons for Baryons

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In an effort to access dense baryonic matter relevant for compact stars in a unified framework that handles both single baryon and multibaryon systems on the same footing, we first address a holographic dual action for a single baryon focusing on the role of the infinite tower of vector mesons deconstructed from five dimensions. To leading order in 't Hooft coupling $\lambda = N_c g_{\text{YM}}^2$, one has the Bogomol'nyi-Prasad-Sommerfield (BPS) Skyrmion that results when the warping of the bulk background and the Chern-Simons term in the Sakai-Sugimoto D4/D8- $\overline{\text{D8}}$ model are ignored. The infinite tower was found by Sutcliffe to induce flow to a conformal theory, i.e., the BPS. We compare this structure to that of the SS model consisting of a 5D Yang-Mills action in warped space and the Chern-Simons term in which higher vector mesons are integrated out while preserving hidden local symmetry and valid to $O(\lambda^0)$ and $O(p^4)$ in the chiral counting. We point out the surprisingly important role of the ω meson that figures in the Chern-Simons term that encodes chiral anomaly in the baryon structure and that may be closely tied to short-range repulsion in nuclear interactions.

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I. INTRODUCTION

There is a growing evidence that the infinite tower of vector mesons play an important role for the baryon structure and consequently for dense baryonic matter. From the theoretical point of view, there is a natural rationale for their role, both bottom-up and top-down.

At very low energy, Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD) is effectively modeled by nonlinear sigma model encapsulating current algebra and as the energy scale increases, there emerge massive vector excitations. An elegant way of capturing the physics of vector mesons is to exploit that there are redundancies in the chiral field representing the pseudo-Goldstone bosons, pions, and introduce gauge symmetry associated with the redundancies. The nonlinear sigma model is gauge-equivalent to hidden local symmetry (HLS) [1, 2], so the vector mesons so generated can be identified with the hidden local gauge fields. In fact, there are an infinite number of redundancies as the energy goes up and hence an infinite number of gauge fields. The infinite number of hidden gauge vector fields together with the pion field in 4D can be dimensionally de-constructed to 5D Yang-Mills (YM) action in

curved space [3]. Here the 5th dimension represents energy scale. This is referred to as “bottom-up” approach.

A similar 5D YM structure arises in the gravity sector (that is referred to as “bulk” sector) of gravity/gauge (holographic) duality that comes from string theory. Among a variety of models given in the bulk sector, referred to as holographic models, the one which has the properties closest to QCD is the model constructed by Sakai and Sugimoto (SS) using D4/D8- $\overline{\text{D8}}$ branes [4]. When Kaluza-Klein(KK)-decomposed to 4D, this model gives an infinite tower of vector mesons plus the pions which map to those of the dimensionally de-constructed gauge theory given on the boundary. This dual (bulk-sector) model is justified in the large N_c and large 't Hooft $\lambda = N_c g_{\text{YM}}^2$ limit and the chiral limit where the quark masses are taken to be zero. In these limits, there are only two parameters in the model and they are fixed from meson dynamics. We call this “top-down” approach.

This paper is the first in the series of studies made to arrive at a description of dense baryonic matter in a unified scheme in which both single baryon and multibaryons are treated on the same footing. In this paper which will focus on the single baryon properties, we will simply adopt the SS model in developing the dynamics of baryons which will in subsequent publications be applied to many-baryon systems, including dense baryonic matter relevant to compact stars. Given the three limits adopted, large N_c , large λ and chiral limit, which do not always apply in nuclear dynamics, the model cannot be expected to work well for *all* baryonic properties and processes, but the merit of this model is that one can make a precise set of parameter-free calculations that

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have not been done in the past in the field. Such a feat is made feasible because there are no unknown parameters once they are fixed in the meson sector. For the single baryon, regardless of how well it fares with Nature, this could be taken as a land-mark calculation in that it is the first *complete and parameter-free* soliton calculation with a chiral Lagrangian with vector mesons written up to $O(p^4)$ including all of the homogeneous Wess-Zumino terms.

Up to date, there is no workable model-independent theoretical tool available to treat simultaneously the structure of elementary baryon and many-baryon systems (such as nuclei and nuclear matter). Lattice QCD cannot access dense matter because of the sign problem which remains unresolved. One possible approach that unifies both elementary baryons and multi-baryon systems was proposed in Ref. [5] where starting with a chiral Lagrangian, the single baryon is generated as a Skyrmion and multi-Skyrmions are put on crystal lattice to simulate many-baryon systems and dense matter. In this series of work, we apply the same strategy with the Lagrangian having the infinite-tower of vector mesons that arises either from string theory or dimensionally deconstructed theory to both nucleon structure and dense matter. The former is treated here and the latter will be given in a forthcoming publication.¹

To start with, we motivate our development with the observation made by Sutcliffe [9] on the structure of Skyrmions when the warping of the holographic direction and the Chern-Simons term are turned off, which amounts to taking the large λ limit, that is, keeping only the $O(\lambda)$ terms. The resulting Skyrmion is a BPS, that is, a conformally invariant object, to which, it is found, the theory flows as more and more of the infinite tower of vector mesons in 4D enter. Of course the BPS Skyrmion by itself is trivial in the sense that there is no interaction in it: It cannot capture the physics of Nature which has interactions. Therefore it is the *deviation from BPS*, namely, the warping of the background and the Chern-Simons term both of which enter at $O(\lambda^0)$ that encodes nontrivial physics. We show how this feature arises by means of truncating the SS model with the lowest-lying vector mesons $\mathcal{V}_1 \equiv (\rho, \omega)$. We will see that the $U(1)$ degree of freedom residing in the Chern-Simons term, namely the ω meson, that prevents the soliton from

shrinking [10, 11], not only blocks the flow to conformal fixed point but also plays a very important role in the Skyrmin structure of baryons and consequently in nuclear many-body interactions, i.e., dense matter. It will also be seen that there is a crucial need for a low-mass scalar – which is famously missing – in the top-down holographic model in a way analogous to what happens in the mean-field model of nuclear matter. In nuclear matter, the small binding energy ~ 16 MeV arises from a nearly exact cancelation between the ω repulsion and the attraction due to a scalar of mass comparable to that of the ω . We conjecture that a similar phenomenon is taking place in the dynamics for both single Skyrmion and multi-Skyrmion systems.

II. THE HOLOGRAPHIC MODEL

We start with the holographic action derived by Sakai and Sugimoto in the large N_c and λ limit. For our purpose, it is not necessary to enter into the details of how the action is derived from the gravity-gauge duality in string theory. It suffices for our purpose to state simply that it gives the generic structure of 5D YM action with no free parameters that is holographically dual to what corresponds to QCD in the large N_c and λ limit (and the chiral limit). As such it can be reliable for certain quantities where $1/N_c$ and/or $1/\lambda$ corrections are unimportant but not for certain others. The holographic dual action of the SS model [4] can be written after a suitable redefinition in the form [10, 12]

$$S = S_{\text{DBI}} + S_{\text{CS}} \quad (1)$$

where

$$S_{\text{DBI}} \approx S_{\text{YM}} = -\kappa \int d^4x dz \frac{1}{2e(z)^2} \text{tr} \mathcal{F}_{mn}^2 \quad (2)$$

with $\kappa = \frac{\lambda N_c}{216\pi^3}$, $e(z)$ is the effective YM coupling that depends on the holographic direction z and is proportional to the KK mass as $M_{KK}^{-1/2}$ and S_{CS} is the Chern-Simons (CS) action that comes from the coupling of the D8-branes to the bulk Ramond-Ramond field. We use the index $m = (\mu, z)$ with $\mu = 0, 1, 2, 3$. The gravity enters in the z dependence of the YM coupling, giving rise to the warping of the space. $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_\mu dx^\mu + \mathcal{A}_z dz$ is the five-dimensional $U(N_f)$ gauge field and $\mathcal{F} = d\mathcal{A} + i\mathcal{A}\mathcal{A}$ is its field strength. We are interested in $N_f = 2$, so the gauge field is

$$\mathcal{A} = A_{\text{SU}(2)} + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{A}_{U(1)}. \quad (3)$$

For this the YM term is

$$S_{\text{YM}} = -\kappa \int d^4x dz \frac{1}{2e^2(z)} \left(\text{tr} F_{mn}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{F}_{mn}^2 \right) \quad (4)$$

and the CS term

$$S_{\text{CS}} = \frac{N_c}{16\pi^2} \int \tilde{A} \wedge \text{tr} F^2 + \frac{N_c}{96\pi^2} \int \tilde{A} \wedge \tilde{F}^2. \quad (5)$$

¹ There have been works that incorporate vector mesons and other degrees of freedom in calculating properties of the single Skyrmion [6] and dense baryonic matter [7]. There have also been detailed structure calculations of few-Skyrmion systems using the Skyrme model [8]. As will be stressed throughout the paper, what distinguishes the work(s) described in the present paper from the previous works is that once the pion decay constant f_π and the ρ -meson mass m_ρ are fixed from the meson sector, this work is the first truly parameter-free treatment of single Skyrmion as well as multi-Skyrmions with a hidden local symmetry Lagrangian valid to chiral $O(p^4)$ and in the large N_c and 't Hooft constant limit.

In Eqs. (4) and (5) F_{mn} is the field strength for the SU(2) gauge field and \tilde{F}_{mn} stands for the field strength of the U(1) gauge field. Back-reactions are ignored in these expressions.

To the leading order in λ , that is, to $O(\lambda)$, $e(z)$ is a constant, so the 5D YM action can be taken to be in flat space. In fact one can ignore the $O(\lambda^0)$ contribution in computing static energy, so up to $O(\lambda^0)$, the static baryon is given by the instanton solution that is self-dual [12].

III. BPS SKYRMION

The role of the infinite tower of vector mesons in the baryon structure can be studied in the approximation that the space is flat in Eq. (2) and the CS term is ignored. This corresponds to taking the leading $O(\lambda)$ in the SS action. This looks like a drastic approximation as we will see later. In particular, the ignoring of the CS term, although subleading in λ , is found to be suspect for nucleon structure. However it can give us a good idea of how the infinite tower encoded in the 5D YM action figures in the nucleon structure as well as in dense medium. The Skyrmion of this action, called BPS Skyrmion, was studied by Sutcliffe [9, 13]. We first review this model because it illustrates clearly the kind of physics we would like to explore. We will uncover the role of the lowest vector mesons ρ and ω and the effect of the higher members in the structure of both elementary and multi-body systems.

As with Sutcliffe, we consider the 5D Euclidean YM action²

$$S = -\frac{1}{2} \int \text{tr} F_{mn}^2 d^4x dz, \quad (6)$$

where

$$F_{mn} = \partial_m A_n - \partial_n A_m + [A_m, A_n] \quad (7)$$

with $A_m = T^a A_m^a$ normalized $\text{tr}(T^a T^b) = \frac{1}{2} \delta_{ab}$. The gauge field transforms

$$A_m \rightarrow g(A_m + \partial_m)g^{-1}. \quad (8)$$

The static energy coming from the action (6), known as BPS action, has a well-known bound, the Bogomolnyi bound,³

$$E \geq 8\pi^2 B \quad (9)$$

with

$$B = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \int \text{tr}(F_{MN}^* F_{MN}) d^3x dz \quad (10)$$

where $M = 1, 2, 3, z$ and $*F_{MN} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{MNAB} F_{AB}$ is the dual field strength. Now the bound is satisfied if F_{MN} is self-dual, i.e.,

$$F_{MN} = *F_{MN}. \quad (11)$$

This means that the energy of the system cannot be lower than the bound.

In order to see how the 4D meson fields that are measured in the laboratories enter into the theory, one needs to do the mode expansion,

$$\begin{aligned} A_\mu(x^\mu, z) &= \sum_{n \geq 1} V_\mu^n(x^\mu) \psi_n(z), \\ A_z(x^\mu, z) &= \sum_{n \geq 0} \varphi^n(x^\mu) \phi_n(z). \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

We work with the gauge $A_z = 0$ which can be obtained by taking

$$g(\mathbf{x}, z) = \mathcal{P} \exp \int_0^z A_z(\mathbf{x}, z') dz'. \quad (13)$$

In the new gauge with the gauge-transformed field $A_z^g = 0$, with the requirement that $A_m \rightarrow 0$ for $|z| \rightarrow \infty$, we have (in the absence of external fields)

$$A_i^g \rightarrow -\xi_{R,L} \partial_i \xi_{R,L}^{-1} \equiv \alpha_i^{R,L}, \quad z \rightarrow \pm\infty \quad (14)$$

where

$$\xi_{R,L}(\mathbf{r}) \equiv g(\mathbf{x}, \pm\infty). \quad (15)$$

This shows that the chiral field $U \equiv \xi_L^\dagger \cdot \xi_R = e^{if(r)\tau \cdot \pi}$ appears at the boundary – with the external fields turned off – and is given by the holonomy as in the Atiyah-Manton ansatz [14].⁴

Then gauge-transformed mode expansion (12) takes the form

$$\begin{aligned} A_\mu^g(x^\mu, z) &= \alpha_\mu^R(x^\mu) \phi^R(z) + \alpha_\mu^L(x^\mu) \phi^L(z) \\ &+ \sum_{n \geq 1} [A_\mu^n(x^\mu) \psi_{2n}(z) - V_\mu^n(x^\mu) \psi_{2n-1}(z)]. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Here $V_\mu^n(x^\mu)$ and $A_\mu^n(x^\mu)$ are the vector and axial-vector meson fields, respectively, and ψ_n is a function that satisfies the equation

$$-\partial_z^2 \psi_n(z) = \lambda_n \psi_n. \quad (17)$$

² This is in unit of an arbitrary mass dimension, so the energy discussed below in this section is in that unit. In the sections that follow with the SS model, the coefficient will be specified.

³ This bound differs from Sutcliffe's expression by a factor of 4 because Sutcliffe's B seems to be 4 times our definition in Eq. (10).

⁴ Note that in the case of Atiyah and Manton, the holonomy is in the time direction while here it is in the fifth (z) direction.

Note that this eigenvalue equation by itself has plane wave solutions and continuous spectra. However, in the present case, Eq. (17) is subject to the requirement that the solution be a complete orthonormal basis for square integrable functions on the real line with unit weight functions, which is necessary to obtain canonical kinetic terms for the vector mesons [13]. This requirement leads to a Hermite function

$$\psi_n(z) = \frac{(-1)^n}{\sqrt{n! 2^n \sqrt{\pi}}} e^{\frac{1}{2}z^2} \frac{d^n}{dz^n} e^{-z^2} \quad (18)$$

normalized as

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_m(z) \psi_n(z) dz = \delta_{mn}. \quad (19)$$

This allows to do the z integration, so the problem reduces to 4D. With the Hermite function, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \phi^{R,L}(z) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}\pi^{1/4}} \int_{\mp\infty}^{\pm z} \psi_0(\xi) d\xi \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{erf}(z/\sqrt{2}), \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

where $\operatorname{erf}(z)$ is the usual error function $\operatorname{erf}(z) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^z e^{-\xi^2} d\xi$. The normalization of $\phi^{R,L}(z)$ is chosen so that $\phi^{R,L}(\mp\infty) = 0$ and $\phi^{R,L}(\pm\infty) = 1$.

What we are interested in is how the tower of vector mesons contributes to the static energy of the action given in Eq. (6). Briefly the important observation made by Sutcliffe is this. The more vector mesons are included, the closer the static energy goes down and approaches the BPS bound. In other words, the higher tower of vector mesons drive the theory to a conformal theory.

In order to explore the role of the tower, first consider eliminating all the vector mesons and leave only the pions as the explicit degrees of freedom. Written in terms of the tower of hidden local gauge fields as is explained in Refs. [4], this can be done by “integrating out” the (hidden local) gauge fields. Then one winds up with the energy of the Skyrme model with the current algebra term and an “effective” or renormalized Skyrme quartic term [15]

$$\begin{aligned} E^{(0)} &= \int \left(\frac{C_1}{2} \operatorname{tr}(\partial_\mu U^\dagger \partial^\mu U) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{C_2}{16} \operatorname{tr} [U^\dagger \partial_\mu U, U^\dagger \partial_\nu U]^2 \right) d^3x, \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

where C_i ’s are constants given by the integral over the Hermite polynomials and U is given by the “holonomy” in Eq. (15),

$$U(\mathbf{x}) = \mathcal{P} \exp \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} A_z(\mathbf{x}, z') dz'. \quad (22)$$

One can calculate the energy of the soliton by using an instanton ansatz as in Atiyah-Manton [14] or in the exact numerical way [16, 17]. They give very close results

$$E^{(0)} = 1.235 (8\pi^2 B). \quad (23)$$

This is the usual 1.24 times the bound, here the Bogomol’nyi bound (9) which corresponds in the case of the Skyrme Lagrangian to the Faddeev bound $12\pi^2 B$.

A. The infinite tower and conformal symmetry

Now what happens when the vector mesons are included? There are no free parameters so this question can be answered precisely. The result is quite striking. As shown by Sutcliffe, the lowest lying vector meson ρ brings the energy from Eq. (23) down to

$$E^{(1)} = 1.071 (8\pi^2 B) \quad (24)$$

and the next-lying axial-vector meson a_1 brings this further down to

$$E^{(2)} = 1.048 (8\pi^2 B). \quad (25)$$

Since the full tower will bring this to the bound $E^{(\infty)} = 8\pi^2 B$, it follows that the high-lying vector mesons make the theory flow to a conformal theory. That the lowest-lying vector meson does nearly all the work in flowing to the conformality is reminiscent of the near complete saturation of the charge sum rule⁵ of the pion [4] and nucleon [10, 18] form factors.

A very analogous tendency is seen when the BPS model is applied to finite nuclei: the vector mesons mediate the flow to conformality and furthermore, reduce the over-binding of nuclei in the Skyrme model [9].

B. The ω meson and the Chern-Simons term

As stated, the BPS Skyrmon considered above is strictly justified in the large λ limit (in addition to the large N_c and chiral limits). To next order in λ , the metric is curved in the holographic direction. To that order, the Chern-Simons term enters bringing in a $U(1)$ degree of freedom, i.e., the ω meson and its tower. In fact the entire tower gives rise to the universal $1/r^2$ repulsion in the holographic model [19]. We know from nuclear physics that the ω meson brings in repulsion, without which nuclei will collapse. In the Skyrmon description, what it does is to make the soliton mass appreciably increased compared with the one without it [20]. In nuclei, the binding requires the presence of a scalar, say, ϕ (often denoted as σ – which is not the fourth component of the chiral four-vector in sigma models). It is the near cancellation of the ω repulsion and the scalar attraction that gives the small binding energy of nuclear matter ~ 16 MeV.

It is clear from the above consideration that both the warping of the background deviating from the BPS structure and the Chern-Simons term needs to be confronted.

⁵ In fact it overshoots the charge.

This means that we have to address the infinite tower structure in the presence of warping and the Chern-Simons term including all the terms to $O(\lambda^0)$ and chiral order $O(p^4)$. This problem has been worked out fully in a highly involved calculation with no free parameters in Ref. [21]. Here we use their results to show certain intricately contrary roles played by the iso-vector and iso-scalar vector mesons in the baryon structure and make conjectures on their potential influence in dense matter.

IV. INTEGRATING-OUT OF THE TOWER OF VECTOR MESONS

We return to the Sakai-Sugimoto model in its original form⁶

$$S = -\kappa \frac{1}{2} \int \text{tr} \left(K(z)^{-1/3} F_{\mu\nu}^2 + 2K(z) F_{\mu z} \right) d^4x dz. \quad (26)$$

Here the KK mass M_{KK} is set equal to 1 but will be recovered in actual calculations. The warping factor is reduced in a series of approximations to the simple form

$$K(z) = 1 + z^2. \quad (27)$$

Setting $K(z) = 1$, one arrives at the flat space. This will be considered below in connection with the BPS Skyrmion. The topological CS term, being background-independent, is the same as given in Eq. (5).

The structure of baryons as instantons in the 5D YM action (26) plus the CS term was worked out in Refs. [10, 18]. They correspond to the Skyrmions in the presence of the pion and the infinite tower of vector mesons. What we would like to do is to compare the truncated models where certain vector mesons are omitted to this infinite-tower structure. One can then learn how the vector mesons contribute in the presence of the warping. To do this we integrate out all vector mesons in the tower except for the lowest, ρ and ω . We shall call the resulting Lagrangian $\mathcal{L}_{\text{HLS}_1}$.

How to integrate out the tower preserving hidden local symmetry of the vector mesons that are being eliminated was worked out in Ref. [22] and the full expression valid to the chiral order $O(p^4)$ needed for the exact Skyrmion calculation to that order is listed in Ref. [21]. In a nutshell, the idea is as follows. When the YM action is KK-decomposed by dimensional reduction to an infinite tower of both vector and axial-vector mesons, one can rewrite the resulting action in terms of a tower of hidden

local symmetric fields. One then integrates out n HLS fields with $n > 1$ preserving hidden local symmetry for the remaining $n = 1$ fields that are to be treated as the relevant degrees of freedom. As shown in Ref. [22], this turns out to be equivalent to setting the mass eigenstate fields – but not hidden local fields – for $n > 1$ to zero. It should be noticed that the “integrating out” adopted here is different from the “naive truncation” which violates the chiral invariance, as explained in detail in Ref. [22]. Actually, in the procedure, the equations of motion for the higher modes are solved based on the order counting of the derivative expansion, and the solutions are substituted back into the action. To the same chiral order $O(p^4)$, there are of course one-loop graphs that give non-local contributions but they are suppressed by N_c . The power of this integrating-out procedure is that hidden local symmetry allows to do a systematic power counting in the sense of chiral perturbation theory. This is not just a “philosophical advantage” but has a predictive power when applied to vector mesons in medium where the masses can go to zero in the chiral limit [2, 23].

To $O(p^4)$ in the large N_c limit, when the external sources are switched off, the $\mathcal{L}_{\text{HLS}_1}$ Lagrangian [2] is

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{HLS}_1} = \mathcal{L}_{(2)} + \mathcal{L}_{(4)y} + \mathcal{L}_{(4)z} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{an}}, \quad (28)$$

where the subscript (n) represents the power $O(p^n)$ and

$$\mathcal{L}_{(2)} = f_\pi^2 \text{tr}[\hat{\alpha}_{\perp\mu} \hat{\alpha}_{\perp}^\mu] + a f_\pi^2 \text{tr}[\hat{\alpha}_{\parallel\mu} \hat{\alpha}_{\parallel}^\mu] - \frac{1}{2g^2} \text{tr}[V_{\mu\nu} V^{\mu\nu}], \quad (29)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{(4)y} = \sum_{i=1}^9 y_i \mathcal{L}_i, \quad (30)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{(4)z} = iz_4 \text{tr}[V_{\mu\nu} \hat{\alpha}_{\perp}^\mu \hat{\alpha}_{\perp}^\nu] + iz_5 \text{tr}[V_{\mu\nu} \hat{\alpha}_{\parallel}^\mu \hat{\alpha}_{\parallel}^\nu], \quad (31)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{an}} = \frac{N_c}{16\pi^2} \int_{M^4} \sum_{i=1}^3 c_i \mathcal{L}_i, \quad (32)$$

where

$$\mathcal{L}_1 = i \text{tr}[\hat{\alpha}_L^3 \hat{\alpha}_R - \hat{\alpha}_R^3 \hat{\alpha}_L], \quad (33)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_2 = i \text{tr}[\hat{\alpha}_L \hat{\alpha}_R \hat{\alpha}_L \hat{\alpha}_R], \quad (34)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_3 = \text{tr}[F_V (\hat{\alpha}_L \hat{\alpha}_R - \hat{\alpha}_R \hat{\alpha}_L)]. \quad (35)$$

Here, f_π is the pion decay constant. The axial-vector field $\hat{\alpha}_{\perp\mu}$ and vector field $\hat{\alpha}_{\parallel\mu}$ are defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\alpha}_{\perp\mu} &= \frac{1}{2i} (D_\mu \xi_R \xi_R^\dagger - D_\mu \xi_L \xi_L^\dagger), \\ \hat{\alpha}_{\parallel\mu} &= \frac{1}{2i} (D_\mu \xi_R \xi_R^\dagger + D_\mu \xi_L \xi_L^\dagger), \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

where

$$D_\mu \xi_{L,R} = (\partial_\mu - ig V_\mu) \xi_{L,R} \quad (37)$$

with the vector meson field V_μ . The field strength tensor of the vector meson field is $V_{\mu\nu}$ and F_V is its 1-form notation, $F_V = dV - iV^2$. We also define

$$\hat{\alpha}_L = \hat{\alpha}_{\parallel} - \hat{\alpha}_{\perp}, \quad \hat{\alpha}_R = \hat{\alpha}_{\parallel} + \hat{\alpha}_{\perp}. \quad (38)$$

⁶ Here, we only keep the leading terms in the $1/\lambda$ expansion. The inclusion of other terms in the $1/\lambda$ expansion will introduce more terms in the action such as the F^3 terms. But the contribution from these non-leading $1/\lambda$ expansion terms to the action is at a higher order than $O(p^4)$ in the chiral counting which is not considered in the present work.

The \mathcal{L}_i^4 's in Eq. (30) are independent $O(p^4)$ (hidden) gauge invariant terms built with the covariants $\hat{\alpha}_\perp^\mu$ and $\hat{\alpha}_\parallel^\mu$, and their explicit expressions can be found in Ref. [2]. What we have here is the most general expression of the HLS₁ Lagrangian to $O(p^4)$ relevant to the problem at issue. It contains 17 parameters. In standard chiral perturbation theory, these constants will have to be fixed from experimental or theoretical information in the meson sector. This is, however, not feasible at present because of the lack of enough information. What makes the calculation performed in Ref. [21] feasible is that *all* the parameters are given in terms of the two parameters f_π and λ that are determined in the meson sector by the pion decay constant and the mass of the ρ meson in the hQCD model. It is this feat that we shall exploit in what follows.

If we integrate out the entire tower of vector mesons, namely, the lowest vector mesons as well in Eq. (28), then we wind up with the Skyrme model with pions only,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}_{\text{ChPT}} &= f_\pi^2 \text{tr} [\alpha_{\perp\mu} \alpha_{\perp}^\mu] + \frac{1}{2e^2} \text{tr} ([\alpha_{\perp\mu}, \alpha_{\perp\nu}] [\alpha_{\perp}^\mu, \alpha_{\perp}^\nu]) \\ &= \frac{f_\pi^2}{4} \text{tr} (\partial_\mu U \partial^\mu U^\dagger) + \frac{1}{32e^2} \text{tr} [U^\dagger \partial_\mu U, U^\dagger \partial_\nu U]^2\end{aligned}\quad (39)$$

with

$$\frac{1}{2e^2} = \frac{1}{2g^2} - \frac{z_4}{2} - \frac{y_1 - y_2}{4}. \quad (40)$$

We should note that there are no other quartic-order terms than the Skyrme term. A term of the form $\frac{y_1 + y_2}{4} \text{tr} [\{\alpha_{\perp\mu}, \alpha_{\perp\nu}\} \{\alpha_{\perp}^\mu, \alpha_{\perp}^\nu\}]$, where the curly bracket represent the anti-commutator, is present but it vanishes because the coefficient is exactly zero by cancellation in the SS model. This is not the case in general. However, it is noteworthy that in chiral perturbation theory for π - π scattering, this term, while nonzero, is small compared with the Skyrme term [24]. Note also that integrating out the vectors from HLS₁ term brings in corrections to what one would obtain when all the vector fields are set equal to zero. The second and third terms of Eq. (40) result from terms involving vector mesons when the latter are integrated out. It turns out that $\left(\frac{z_4}{2} + \frac{y_1 - y_2}{4}\right) > 0$, so the constant $1/e$ is less than $1/g$ that one gets by sending the mass of the ρ meson to infinity.

V. RESULTS OF HLS₁ SKYRMION IN A WARPED SPACE

A. Instanton

The “reference result” to which comparison is to be made is that of the instanton description with the SS model obtained in Refs. [10, 11, 18]. For the parameters $f_\pi = 92.4$ MeV and $\lambda = 17$ fixed in the meson sector [4],

the mass of the instanton is [10]⁷

$$M_{\text{instanton}} \simeq 1800 \text{ MeV}. \quad (41)$$

This corresponds to the mass of a Skyrmion in the infinite tower of vector mesons in a warped space and the Chern-Simons term. The collective quantization gives the Δ - N mass difference that arises at $O(1/N_c)$ as [11]

$$\Delta M \equiv m_\Delta - m_N \approx 570 \text{ MeV}, \quad (42)$$

where $m_{\Delta, N}$ is the mass that contains the rotational $1/N_c$ contribution.

In the above estimates, the KK mass M_{KK} which sets the scale or cutoff was taken to be $M_{KK} \simeq 950$ MeV as fixed by the two parameters in the meson sector [4]. Both the mass in Eq. (41) and the splitting in Eq. (42) are much too big compared with the experimental data. As noted in Ref. [11], were we to reduce M_{KK} to ~ 500 MeV, we would get ~ 950 MeV for the soliton mass and ~ 300 MeV for the Δ - N mass difference, both consistent with experiments. This is similar to the reduced *effective* f_π first used in Ref. [17] for the Skyrme model. How to reconcile results with Nature by implementing a dilaton scalar degree of freedom will be discussed in the last section.

B. HLS₁ Skyrmion with ρ , ω and π

Next we consider integrating out *all* vector mesons except for the lowest vector mesons ρ and ω . The resulting Lagrangian is given in Eq. (28). What distinguishes this Lagrangian from the conventional – and truncated – HLS Lagrangian used in the past is that it is complete in chiral order to $O(p^4)$ in both the normal and anomalous components of the Lagrangian and furthermore there are no unknown parameters. In the past, the anomalous part of the Lagrangian – referred to as “homogenous Wess-Zumino (hWZ)” term – was often approximated by one term proportional to $\omega_\mu B^\mu$ where B_μ is the baryon number current. This form requires assuming $m_\rho \rightarrow \infty$ in the hWZ term which is not consistent with the notion that the ρ mass is of the same chiral order as the pion mass indispensable for hidden local symmetric approaches.

There is one more important aspect of the HLS₁ soliton we are considering that needs to be signaled and that is that the properties of the soliton of this HLS₁ model should have no a dependence that appears in Eq. (29). In the holographic setting, a is linked to the normalization of the lowest eigenvalue λ_1 for $\psi_1(z)$ and physical quantities of the baryon should be independent of a . The proof for

⁷ We give approximate numerical values with the understanding that the parameters fixed in the meson sector that we use are highly approximative. Precise values for the HLS₁ Skyrmions are found in Ref. [21].

this observation is given in detail in Ref. [21]. In the standard – or boundary or gauge sector – HLS theory [1, 2], a is defined in the range $1 \leq a \leq 2$. It takes $a \simeq 2$ in free space and $a \simeq 1$ in hadronic medium, i.e., at high temperature and/or density [2].

We now quote the results of the involved calculation of Ref. [21] for the soliton mass and collective quantization, and comment on their implications. Denoting by \mathcal{M} those degrees of freedom left un-integrated out, we have

- $\mathcal{M} = \pi, \rho, \omega$:

$$\begin{aligned} M_{\text{HLS}_1}(\pi, \rho, \omega) &\approx 1184 \text{ MeV}, \\ \Delta M \equiv m_\Delta - m_N &\approx 448 \text{ MeV}. \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

Note that the soliton mass is of $O(N_c)$ while ΔM is of $O(1/N_c)$.

- $\mathcal{M} = \pi, \rho$: Now we integrate out the ω meson and find

$$\begin{aligned} M_{\text{HLS}_1}(\pi, \rho) &\approx 835 \text{ MeV}, \\ \Delta M &\approx 1707 \text{ MeV}. \end{aligned} \quad (44)$$

- $\mathcal{M} = \pi$: Finally integrating out the last vector meson ρ winding up with the Skyrme model, one gets

$$\begin{aligned} M_{\text{HLS}_1}(\pi) &\approx 922 \text{ MeV}, \\ \Delta M &\approx 1014 \text{ MeV}. \end{aligned} \quad (45)$$

What transpires here can be summarized as follows: As the isovector vector mesons are added, the soliton mass decreases as in the BPS case while the ΔM increases. On the other hand, when the isoscalar vector meson is added, the soliton mass *increases* while ΔM *decreases*. One can easily understand this inverse correlation between the soliton mass and the Δ - N mass splitting by looking at what happens when *all* vector mesons are integrated out giving the Skyrme model. Because of the reduction of $1/e^2$ by the second and third terms in Eq. (40), the soliton mass gets reduced. But it increases the Δ - N splitting which goes proportional to e . This problem is avoided in Ref. [17] by reducing *both* f_π and e . We suggest that this is intricately correlated with the axial-vector coupling constant g_A . Keeping f_π at its physical value and adjusting e to give $g_A = 1.26$ would lead to the soliton mass $M_{\text{Skyrme}} \sim 1500 \text{ MeV}$.⁸

Two points are worth noticing here. One is that while there is a tendency of flow to conformality in the soliton mass with the isovector vector mesons even with a warped space, the isoscalar vector mesons *strongly*

counter this tendency. On the other hand, the ω meson that plays a crucial role in the repulsion in nucleon interactions reduces an unrealistically large Δ - N splitting from that without the ω meson. This feature is generic independent of the background warping as we shall see below with BPS Skyrmions. The striking influence of the ω meson in the soliton structure was also observed in dense medium described by HLS Lagrangian treated in terms of crystals in Ref. [20]. The connection between these diverse phenomena, i.e., the universal hard-core repulsion, the apparent obstruction to conformal flow and the Δ - N splitting etc. is a deep open problem in nuclear physics.

We now suggest that what is happening here with g_A can be exploited to remove the defects in the instanton results (41) and (42), both of which are too big. As noted in Refs. [10], when an $O(N_c^0)$ correction is suitably made to the axial coupling constant in the Sakai-Sugimoto model, one gets $g_A = \frac{g_A^0}{3} N_c (1 + 2/N_c)$ where g_A^0 comes out to be ~ 0.75 , so for $N_c = 3$, one gets $g_A \approx 1.25$ consistent with the experimental value 1.27.

Up to date, there has been no derivation of this $O(N_c^0)$ Casimir contribution in holographic models. It is tantamount to making $1/N_c$ corrections and this task remains unresolved in holographic approaches, so is ignored in the string theory community. However this $O(1)$ term comes out naturally in the large N_c counting in the non-relativistic quark model as well as in the Skyrme quantization. In a similar vein, we note that the instanton mass is of $O(N_c)$ whereas the splitting ΔM is of $O(1/N_c)$. The $O(1)$ Casimir energy is glaringly missing. Just as the $O(1)$ term is important for g_A , such an $O(1)$ term could also be important for the baryon mass. The Casimir calculation is notoriously difficult to perform given that we have a non-renormalizable theory but there is nothing that suggests that it should not be there. In fact, the presently available estimate in the Skyrme model, though admittedly very rough, does indeed give an attractive Casimir contribution of order $\sim -500 \text{ MeV}$, going in the right direction with a correct order of magnitude [25]. As we will discuss below (in the last section), this defect could be remedied by implementing scalar degrees of freedom missing in the holographic model. Such scalars could contribute the missing $O(1)$ effects.

VI. BPS SKYRMION AND THE CHERN-SIMONS TERM

We learned from the work of Sutcliffe [9, 13] that the Skyrme in the flat space 5D YM action, i.e., BPS Skyrme, has the potentially important feature that the more vector mesons in the infinite tower in 4D are implemented, the closer the Skyrme mass approaches the BPS mass $8\pi^2 B$, that is, the theory flows to conformal theory. In this consideration the Chern-Simons term which encapsulates chiral anomaly has not been taken into account. The CS term is background-independent

⁸ See Ref. [25] for a discussion on this matter.

and hence should be independent of the warping. We show that the CS term plays a qualitatively similar role in the BPS Skyrmion model as in the HLS₁ model with the warped background.

Using our energy unit, we have the BPS mass $M_{\text{BPS}} \approx \frac{\lambda N_c}{27\pi} M_{KK} \approx 559$ MeV [10]⁹ in agreement with Ref. [13]. When the CS term contribution is added, we get $M_{\text{BPS-CS}} = M_{\text{BPS}} + \sqrt{\frac{2}{15}} N_c M_{KK} \approx 1038$ MeV. In looking at the cases where the tower is integrated out, we will follow the same procedure as in the case of the SS model. We will first integrate out all except the lowest vector mesons ρ and ω and the pion, then integrate out the ω and then finally the ρ . For the given \mathcal{M} , the results are:

- $\mathcal{M} = \pi, \rho, \omega$:

$$\begin{aligned} M_{\text{BPS}}(\pi, \rho, \omega) &\approx 1162 \text{ MeV}, \\ \Delta M_{\text{BPS}}(\pi, \rho, \omega) &\approx 456 \text{ MeV}. \end{aligned} \quad (46)$$

- $\mathcal{M} = \pi, \rho$:

$$\begin{aligned} M_{\text{BPS}}(\pi, \rho) &\approx 577 \text{ MeV}, \\ \Delta M_{\text{BPS}}(\pi, \rho) &\approx 4541 \text{ MeV}. \end{aligned} \quad (47)$$

- $\mathcal{M} = \pi$:

$$\begin{aligned} M_{\text{BPS}}(\pi) &\approx 673 \text{ MeV}, \\ \Delta M_{\text{BPS}}(\pi) &\approx 2611 \text{ MeV}. \end{aligned} \quad (48)$$

Although in magnitude they are different, one observes qualitatively the same tendency in the opposing effect in the soliton mass and the mass splitting as in the HLS₁ model: The ω meson blocks the flow to the conformal fixed point while reducing the Δ - N mass splitting.

VII. DISCUSSIONS

In this Section we briefly summarize our findings in the single-baryon sector and then make a few comments on their implications on dense matter relevant for the physics of compact stars, the main objective of the series of work in progress.

In the large N_c and large λ limit, the Skyrmion embedded in the tower of isovector vector mesons as described by a 5D YM action without the CS term (which is absent at the leading order in λ) flows to a BPS instanton as more vector mesons are included. The interaction gets weaker and the size becomes smaller. This tendency however gets blocked at the next order in λ , namely at

$O(\lambda^0)$, by the presence of the ω meson present in the CS term. The effect of the ω meson is two-fold. It increases the soliton mass way above the empirical nucleon mass and decreases its size way below the empirical size [21]. This correlation is not difficult to understand. What is surprising however is what happens with the hyperfine splitting ΔM between the ground state N and its rotation excitation Δ . It comes out to be more than 5 times the empirical value in the absence of the ω (lodged in the CS term) and gets reduced by a factor of more than ~ 3 in its presence. As mentioned, these drastic effects of the ω at the next-to-leading order in $1/\lambda$, points to a possible importance of both $1/N_c$ and $1/\lambda$ corrections in the baryon structure. It has been observed in the standard Skyrme model that some, if not all, of the problems can be resolved by $1/N_c$ corrections – via Casimir energy – to the mass and to the axial coupling constant g_A . In terms of hidden local symmetry Lagrangian, there has been an attempt, with some success, to remedy these difficulties by implementing a scalar degree of freedom, dilaton, associated with the QCD trace anomaly [26]. The dilaton provides an attraction that significantly compensates the ω repulsion, thereby reducing the mass. The basic difficulty in the bulk-sector model, however, is that there is no way known to introduce a low-mass scalar that would simulate the attraction required.¹⁰

One of the most striking – and puzzling – observations made in this paper is the role of the ω meson in the Δ - N mass splitting. It involves both the large N_c and large λ approximations. The effect in question appears both in the warped space, (44)-(45), and in the flat space, (47)-(48). That the $O(1/N_c)$ terms associated with the mass splitting are an order of magnitude greater than the $O(N_c)$ terms of the soliton mass suggest either that the large N_c expansion and/or large λ expansion make no sense whatsoever or the role of ω meson is not at all understandable, or both. This observation appears to crack wide open the issue of the *right* degrees of freedom that should figure in effective Lagrangians for the solitonic approach to baryons.

The prominent effects of the ω meson in the baryon structure observed in this paper must be correlated also with the role it plays in nuclear interactions. In the effective field theory framework modeling QCD, it is well established that the vector, ω , degree of freedom is essential for the stability of nuclear matter. In a mean-field theoretic description, it is the balance between the ω repulsion and the scalar attraction of a range comparable to that of the ω that provides the nuclear saturation. Thus very two effects that have not been handled in the bulk sector must play an important role in nuclear physics, namely $1/\lambda$ and $1/N_c$ corrections and a low-mass

⁹ Here we used $\lambda = 16.66$, $M_{KK} = 948$ MeV determined from our inputs.

¹⁰ There is a scalar attraction in the Sakai-Sugimoto model but the scalar is much too heavy to be identified with the scalar that is needed for the single baryon as well as in nuclear matter, discussed below [27].

scalar (of ~ 600 MeV). What happens to the balance between the attraction and the repulsion when the system is squeezed to high density as in compact stars is therefore totally unknown.

In a recent work based on renormalization group property of hidden local symmetric Lagrangian taken at $O(p^2)$ in baryonic medium, it was found that as density approaches the chiral restoration density, the vector-meson-nucleon coupling should go to zero at some density referred to as “dilaton limit fixed point” [28, 29]. This would mean that the ωNN coupling should decrease as density increases. This turns out to bring havoc to nuclear matter at a density $n \gtrsim 2n_0$ as it would make the neutron-star equation of state (EoS) much too soft to support the observed 2-solar mass star [30]. Assuming that this consideration applies also to the bulk-sector theory, a way out of this difficulty might be the intervention of the tower of isoscalar vector mesons which become important as the lowest ω gets suppressed. This would make the nature of short-range repulsion basically different from the standard interpretation in terms of ω -exchange many-body forces.

An extension of the model so far studied to dense matter is to put the Skyrmions considered in this paper on crystal lattice and determine where in density a Skyrmion (or instanton) transforms to two half-Skyrmions [31, 32] (or half-instantons/dyons [33]). This is important in calculating the EoS for compact-star matter as shown in Ref. [30]. In doing so, the missing ingredient is the scalar degree of freedom which figures importantly in the previous studies with truncated HLS Lagrangian [28, 29, 34]. Although putting a scalar of a mass relevant to nuclear

matter at high density into the SS model is still unknown, the indication from the Skyrmion case [34] is that the density at which the change-over occurs is highly insensitive to the mass of the scalar. What is relevant then would be the vector mesons considered in this paper and what was found here is expected to be of importance to the problem.

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